IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows:

1-10. (Cancelled)

11. (Currently Amended) A synthetic bottle stopper made from a plasticizer–free, foamed thermoplastic elastomer composition, comprising:

one or more thermoplastic elastomeric block copolymers;

one or more polymers having alkyl groups containing 2 or more carbon atoms attached to a carbon backbone and having a melt flow index of from 0.1 to 200 dg/min (at 2.16 kg/190°C, determined in accordance with ASTM D 1238); and

a blowing agent, wherein the foamed thermoplastic elastomer composition is ~~oil-free~~ plasticizer–free.

12. (Previously Presented) The synthetic bottle stopper of claim 11, wherein at least one of the one or more thermoplastic elastomeric block copolymers is a styrenic elastomeric block copolymer.

13. (Previously Presented) The synthetic bottle stopper of claim 12, wherein each of the styrenic elastomeric block copolymers contains one or more glassy polymer blocks made of polymerized styrene monomer in an amount of at least 80 mol% on the total monomer content of the glassy block and one or more elastomeric polymer blocks made of polymerized conjugated diene in an amount of at least 80 mol% on the total monomer content of the elastomeric block.

14. (Previously Presented) The synthetic bottle stopper of claim 13, wherein at least one of the polymerized conjugated dienes is butadiene or isoprene.

15. (Previously Presented) The synthetic bottle stopper of claim 14, wherein each styrenic elastomeric block copolymer has an overall styrene content of 10 to 50% by weight.

16. (Previously Presented) The synthetic bottle stopper of claim 15, wherein each styrenic elastomeric block copolymer has a total apparent molecular weight of from 30,000 to 400,000 g/mol.

17. (Previously Presented) The synthetic bottle stopper of claim 16, wherein each styrenic elastomeric block copolymer is a selectively hydrogenated block copolymer wherein the vinyl content of the conjugated diene block is at least 35 mol% based on the total diene content.

18. (Previously Presented) The synthetic bottle stopper of claim 17, wherein the one or more styrenic elastomeric block copolymers comprise a triblock copolymer or a mixture of a diblock copolymer and a triblock copolymer.

19. (Previously Presented) The synthetic bottle stopper of claim 18, wherein the one or more styrenic elastomeric block copolymers comprise a mixture of a diblock copolymer and a triblock copolymer, comprising:

a mixture of an S-EB-S triblock copolymer having a total molecular weight of about 50,000 to about 100,000; and

an S-EP diblock copolymer having a total molecular weight of about 120,000 to about 200,000.

20. (Previously Presented) The synthetic bottle stopper of claim 11, wherein at least one of the one or more polymers having alkyl groups containing 2 or more carbon atoms attached to a carbon backbone is a polymer of 1-butene.

21. (Previously Presented) The synthetic bottle stopper of claim 20, wherein at least one of the one or more polymers having alkyl groups containing 2 or more carbon

atoms attached to a carbon backbone is poly-1-butene having a melt index of about 0.4 g/10min.

22. (Previously Presented) The synthetic bottle stopper of claim 20, wherein the polymers having alkyl groups containing 2 or more carbon atoms attached to a carbon backbone are present in an amount of 10 to 100 parts by weight per 100 parts by weight of the thermoplastic elastomeric block copolymers.

23. (Previously Presented) The synthetic bottle stopper of claim 22, wherein the polymers having alkyl groups containing 2 or more carbon atoms attached to a carbon backbone are present in an amount of 30 to 80 parts by weight per 100 parts by weight of the thermoplastic elastomeric block copolymers.

24. (Previously Presented) The synthetic bottle stopper of claim 11, wherein the blowing agent is present in an amount from 1 to 10 %wt, based on the weight of the foamed thermoplastic elastomer composition.

25. (Previously Presented) The synthetic bottle stopper of claim 24, wherein the blowing agent is selected from the group consisting of azodicarbonamide, sodium bicarbonate, and mixtures thereof.

26. (Currently Amended) A synthetic bottle stopper made from a foamed thermoplastic elastomer composition, comprising:

100 parts by weight of a mixture of a selectively hydrogenated styrene/conjugated diene multi block copolymer and a selectively hydrogenated styrene/conjugated diene diblock copolymer;

10 to 100 parts by weight of a branched polyolefin selected from the group consisting of a polymer of 1-butene and a high melt strength polymer of propene, the branched polyolefin having a melt flow index of from 0.1 to 200 g/10min (at 2.16 kg/190 C, determined in accordance with ASTM D 1238); and

a blowing agent in an amount of from 1 to 10 percent weight, based on the total weight of the foamed thermoplastic elastomer composition, wherein the foamed thermoplastic elastomer composition is ~~oil-free~~ plasticizer-free.

27. (Previously Presented) The synthetic bottle stopper of claim 26, wherein the branched polyolefin is poly-1-butene having a melt index of about 0.4 g/10min.

28. (Previously Presented) The synthetic bottle stopper of claim 26, wherein the blowing agent is selected from the group consisting of azodicarbonamide, sodium bicarbonate, and mixtures thereof.

29. (Previously Presented) The synthetic bottle stopper of claim 26, wherein the multi block copolymer is an S-EB-S triblock copolymer and the diblock copolymer is an S-EP diblock copolymer, and wherein the amount of the triblock copolymer is about about 70 to about 90 parts by weight and the amount of the diblock copolymer is about 30 to about 10 parts by weight.

30. (Previously Presented) The synthetic bottle stopper of claim 29, wherein the S-EB-S triblock copolymer has a total molecular weight of about 50,000 to about 100,000 and the S-EP diblock copolymer has a total molecular weight of about 120,000 to about 200,000.

31. (Previously Presented) The synthetic bottle stopper of claim 30 having a density less than 0.7 kg/m3.